

Rohrback, Henry, Farm, House  
East of Burnside Bridge Road  
Sharpsburg Vicinity  
Washington County  
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-944

HABS  
MD,  
22-SHARPS,  
24-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROHRBACK, HENRY, FARM, HOUSE HABS NO. MD-944

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MD.  
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Location: Private lane east of Burnside Bridge, Sharpsburg Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: The farm is significant as an example of mid-nineteenth century architecture and due to its proximity to the site of the Civil War Battle of Antietam.

Description: The Rohrback house is a two-story, five-bay structure built on a stone foundation. Like other larger brick structures in the area, this house is constructed with Flemish bond at the front elevations only. Common bond with five rows of stretchers between header courses is used at the side and rear walls. Central entrances are present at the first and second stories of the front wall, thus providing evidence of a two-story porch which once extended across the entire front elevation. The side gabled roof is punctuated by two interior chimneys at both gable ends of the main block. A third interior chimney is located on the gable end of a one-story, two-bay kitchen addition which extends to the rear of the house.

The large brick end bank barn is distinctive in its decorative open work ventilators. High in the gable peak, open work patterns form the letters "H" "R" for Henry Rohrback. The roof is gabled with wood shingles.

History: The farm complex appears to have buildings which are contemporary with each other. Its brick architecture suggests a construction in the mid-nineteenth century and the farm was known to have existed prior to the Battle of Antietam in September 1862. The varying brick bond, including the more prestigious Flemish bond on the front elevation, further suggests that the Rohrback house was one of the more elaborate brick structures in the vicinity.

The farm's association with the Civil War is derived from its proximity to the afternoon portion of the Battle of Antietam when fighting was concentrated in the area of Burnside's or Rohrback's Bridge. After the Battle, the Ninth Corps of the Army of the Potomac occupied the farm and its buildings. Brigadier General Isaac P. Rodman, who was fatally wounded near Burnside's Bridge, died in the house on September 30, 1862.

Sources: Antietam National Battlefield Site, National  
Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1981.

The Henry Rohrback Farm, Maryland Historical Trust  
Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey,  
1978.

Historian: Martha Wagner  
HABS  
1991